parleying with him, perhaps proposing that if he left the fish knives, they saw no objection to his taking other cutlery in reason; at last, fell back on deriving what comfort they might from the thought that at any rate he did not know the formula for opening the safe.

Mr. Eden, like Henderson before him and Mr. Lansbury after him, visited various European capitals for the purpose of engaging in frank discussion with those in authority, and thereby clearing the air. Discussion, presumably frank, was duly engaged in, but the air not cleared. With the same end in view, he addressed an ingenious questionnaire to the German Government in the hope of elucidating its intentions; but his questionnaire was never answered, and the German Government's intentions, therefore, unelucidated. M. Laval, similarly bent, also visited European capitals; and M. Herriot went to the U.S.S.R., where he was cordially received, pronounced the catering excellent, the countryside delectable, the population bonny and the Government benevolent and prepared the way for the conclusion of a Franco-Soviet Pact.

There were ominous rumblings in a number of places later to achieve notoriety—Danzig, Memel, Sudetenland, In Austria an attempted Nazi coup failed, though it resulted in the brutal murder of the Chancellor, Dollfuss, who, despite his former slaughter of Social Democrats and establishment of a Corporate State, became momentarily a much honoured martyr in the democratic cause. The failure of this coup was reassuring.

A union of Germany and Austria, considered by many a righteous

endeavour before Hitler became Chancellor, now was unthinkable; and in any case Mussolini would never allow it. He might contravene the League Covenant to conquer Abyssinia, but would never contravene it where a neighbouring State was concerned.

One contravention of the Covenant led to another; after sanctions Mussolini cared little for the League, and was never again likely to be in the running for a Nobel Peace Prize. The Rome-Berlin Axis was already in process of being forged, and